

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 5-7 and 9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 11 and add new Claims 12-17 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink for use in ink jet recording ~~comprising~~
comprising:

a dye and a pigment as colorants,

wherein said pigment is a self-dispersible pigment in which at least one anionic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group to a surface of said pigment, said dye is an anionic dye, 2-pyrrolidone is further contained as a solvent, and the mass-based content X of 2-pyrrolidone in the ink and the ratio Y of ~~the~~ said pigment to the sum of ~~the~~ said dye and ~~the~~ said pigment satisfy the following formulas 1 to 3 at the same time:

formula 1 $12 \leq X < 30$

formula 2 $50 \leq Y \leq 75$

formula 3 $Y \geq -2X + 84.$

2. (Currently Amended) An ink for use in ink jet recording ~~comprising~~
comprising:

a dye and a pigment as colorants,

wherein said pigment is a self-dispersible pigment in which at least one anionic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group to a surface of said pigment, said dye is an anionic dye, 2-pyrrolidone is further contained as a solvent, and the mass-based content X of 2-pyrrolidone in the ink and the ratio Y of ~~the~~ said pigment to the sum of ~~the~~ said dye and ~~the~~ said pigment satisfy the following formulas 1 to 3 at the same time:

formula 1 $12 \leq X < 30$

formula 2 $50 \leq Y \leq 75$

formula 3 $Y \geq (-4/3)X + 86.$

3. (Original) The ink according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said dye includes at least one disazo dye or trisazo dye.

4. (Original) The ink according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ink has a Ka value as determined by Bristow's method of less than $1 \text{ ml} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{msec}^{-1/2}$.

Claims 5-7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) An ink for use in ink jet recording ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a self-dispersible pigment in which at least one anionic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group to a surface of said pigment and an anionic dye as ~~colorants~~, colorants; and

2-pyrrolidone as a solvent,

wherein the mass-based content X % of 2-pyrrolidone in the ink and the ratio Y % of ~~the said~~ pigment to the sum of ~~the said~~ dye and ~~the said~~ pigment respectively satisfy $10 < X < 30$ and $50 \leq Y \leq 75$, and the ink has a first-ejection time of 7 seconds or longer as measured with an ink jet head of an ejection amount of 4.5 picoliters.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording method comprising:

a step of providing an ink comprising a dye and a pigment as colorants,

wherein the pigment is a self-dispersible pigment in which at least one anionic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group to a surface of the pigment, the dye is an anionic dye, 2-pyrrolidone is further contained as a solvent, and the mass-based content X of 2-pyrrolidone in the ink and the ratio Y of the pigment to the sum of the dye and the pigment satisfy the following formulas 1 to 3 at the same time:

formula 1 $12 \leq X < 30$

formula 2 $50 \leq Y \leq 75$

formula 3 $Y \geq -2X + 84$; and

a step of ejecting the ink on a recording medium ~~utilizing the ink according to any one of claims 1, 2, 8 and 9.~~

11. (Currently Amended) An ink container containing the ink according to any one of claims 1, 2 and 8, ~~8 and 9~~.

12. (New) An ink jet recording method comprising:
a step of providing an ink comprising a dye and a pigment as colorants, wherein the pigment is a self-dispersible pigment in which at least one anionic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group to a surface of the pigment, the dye is an anionic dye, 2-pyrrolidone is further contained as a solvent, and the mass-based content X of 2-pyrrolidone in the ink and the ratio Y of the pigment to the sum of the dye and the pigment satisfy the following formulas 1 to 3 at the same time:

formula 1 $12 \leq X < 30$

formula 2 $50 \leq Y \leq 75$

formula 3 $Y \geq (-4/3)X + 86$; and

a step of ejecting the ink on a recording medium.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the ink is ejected by an ink jet recording apparatus including heating means capable of heating the ink during a printing operation, and control means which controls the heating means to maintain the ink within a specified temperature range.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the specified temperature range is from 40 to 60°C.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the specified temperature range is from 40 to 50 °C.

16. (New) An ink jet recording method comprising:
a step of providing an ink comprising a self-dispersible pigment in which at least one anionic group is bonded directly or through another atomic group to a surface of the pigment and an anionic dye as colorants, and 2-pyrrolidone as a solvent, wherein the mass-based content X % of 2-pyrrolidone in the ink and the ratio Y % of the pigment to the sum of the dye and the pigment respectively satisfy $10 < X < 30$ and $50 \leq Y \leq 75$, and the ink has a first-ejection time of 7 seconds or longer as measured with an ink jet head of an ejection amount of 10 picoliters or less; and
a step of ejecting the ink on a recording medium.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the ejection amount of the ink jet head is 4.5 picoliters.